

UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM  
ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 30, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments, to ensure that the Federal Government pays the costs incurred by those governments in complying with certain requirements under Federal statutes and regulations, and to provide information on the cost of Federal mandates on the private sector, and for other purposes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Vento amendment to H.R. 5 which will ensure that the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act will not apply to laws and regulations that involve life-threatening public health and safety measures.

The amendment clearly recognizes the Federal Government's steadfast responsibility in protecting the health and safety of the American public. If we ignore this responsibility, the result will be devastating.

If the act passes without the Vento amendment, landfills, incinerators, hazardous waste dumps, toxic waste storage facilities, and manufacturers could pollute our air and our water unchecked by oversight of the Federal Government. This rampant pollution will have a severe negative impact on the health of the American public.

Children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are especially vulnerable to diseases caused by environmental pollution.

Many respiratory diseases and several forms of cancer are directly attributable to environmental causes.

These polluting facilities are disproportionately likely to be located in low-income and minority communities.

Currently, dust from a concrete recycling plant in the city of Huntington Park in my district is polluting that community's air and water.

Both the local rate of respiratory infection and of asthma in children have risen alarmingly since the plant began operation.

The citizens of that community are now turning to the government for assistance and protection against this threat to their health.

The industry assumption is that people living in these communities are politically weak and so consumed by the daily grind of making a living that they will not have the resources to organize against these facilities, as people in upper income communities tend to do.

Unfortunately, this assumption is firmly grounded in the reality of many communities throughout our country.

The Federal Government must not abandon its role in protecting the health of all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable in our country.

As Representatives of our respective communities, we have a clear obligation to protect the health and safety of the American people.

If we abandon it now, we may cause damage to future generations before our mistake can be corrected.

I urge the passage of the Vento amendment.

MR. HSU'S MEETING

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 1995*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in every advanced society, regulation of the airways and the electronic media is both a necessity and a recognized duty of government. In the United States, we have long believed that the airways belong to the public. Therefore, the United States licenses frequency assignments in each market. Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934 clearly states that no one may operate a radio, television, or other wireless transmission facility without a license from the Federal Communications Commission. This law was enacted to prevent several parties from attempting to use the same frequency and, in the process, destroying their ability to reliably broadcast. It also ensures that the public is compensated for one of its greatest assets and ensures that persons granted use of this resource do not abuse their privilege.

Mr. Speaker, other developed nations have followed the lead of the United States by enacting laws like our Communications Act. In 1993, the Republic of China on Taiwan enacted comprehensive legislation to permit the licensing of new radio stations and the establishment of cable television stations. Under this law, many former operators of underground radio stations, which had been operating illegally for many years, were permitted to apply for new licenses. To date, 17 of the 20 former operators of these underground stations have received licenses after their applications were reviewed by a nonpartisan professional licensing board. These licenses were granted without regard to the operators' political affiliations. In fact, three licenses were awarded to operators who are openly opposed to the current party in power.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Republic of China has been extremely generous in its licensing policies. In the United States, anyone found to be illegally operating a commercial radio station rarely gets a chance to obtain a commercial radio station after being found in violation of the law. Despite this generous policy, several operators of illegal radio stations in Taiwan have refused to apply for licenses and have continued to operate illegally, thereby jamming the frequencies lawfully allocated to licensed operators.

Mr. Speaker, one such illegal radio operator is Mr. Hsu Rongchi. This week, Mr. Hsu has requested and, in fact, has been granted, a meeting with a select few Members of the U.S. Congress to discuss the issue of licensing radio stations in the Republic of China. It is my expectation that Mr. Hsu will argue that the Republic of China on Taiwan has prevented him from exercising his right to free speech by shutting down his illegal radio operation.

Mr. Speaker, I fully respect Mr. Hsu's right to meet with Members of the U.S. Congress. I also respect the right of Members of Congress to solicit the opinion of foreign citizens on foreign policy related matters. At the same

time, I am deeply concerned about how this meeting may be portrayed in the American and foreign media. In my 12 years in Congress, I have witnessed on numerous occasions foreign nationals who have deliberately misrepresented their interaction with Members of Congress in order to achieve their own political objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is important to emphasize that Mr. Hsu has not been granted a hearing by the House Committee of International Relations or the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. I sit on this full committee and this subcommittee. In the House of Representatives, they have exclusive jurisdiction to hold hearings on issues impacting United States-Republic of China relations. While Mr. Hsu and others may be billing this February 2, meeting with Members of Congress as a hearing, it is actually a meeting with a few Members of Congress. Furthermore, the fact that a few Members of Congress have conceded to meet with Mr. Hsu should not be portrayed as any affirmation by the U.S. Congress of Mr. Hsu's viewpoint, or for that matter, that the U.S. Congress views this issue of great importance. In fact, I believe that the majority of my colleagues would disagree with Mr. Hsu's opinions regarding the fairness with which the Republic of China on Taiwan licenses radio stations.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that my remarks will have clarified for all those interested parties what is and is not taking place this week in the U.S. Congress regarding the radio licensing issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE WARD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 1995*

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed rollcall vote No. 65—during consideration of H.R. 5, Unfunded Mandates Reform Act—on January 30, 1995. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, some concerns have been expressed about how the balanced budget amendment, if ratified, could effect the Federal Government's ability to issue debt, manage its cash position, and borrow money at the lowest rate.

For instance, under present budgetary requirements, budget outlays for direct loans, such as those provided by the Eximbank and USDA, consist of the net present value of the